

# **Srimad Yadushilanivasa Rasika Pandit Devashikhamani Alasingaracharya**

**1877-1940**



Pandit Devashikhamani Alasingaracharya was born on 18.04.1877 in Melkote, a small hamlet in Mandya district, Karnataka. He hailed from an orthodox srivaishnava family of scholars. He was the son of M D Thirumala Iyengar who groomed Alasingaracharya into a great scholar in Sanskrit as well as in Kannada. He started his career as a teacher in Marimallappa high school Mysore. Later on he shifted to Madras (now Chennai) and continued his teaching career in Christian college (19 years) and Presidency College (11 years). He worked as a professor in Queen Mary's college and served on committees of Madras University.

He rendered assistance to Ananda press and Srivatsa press in Madras who had printed several works in Kannada literature. From then onwards he was totally involved in the works of Kannada literature. He was an expert in giving discourses in various fields viz, music, dance, drama, literature, poem science, sociology, etc. Thus he had become a bridge between the layman and the intellectual. Despite being a renowned scholar, Alasingaracharya lived a very simple life.

Well-known writer, D V Gundappa used to narrate reminiscences of Alasingaracharya often. Alasingaracharya was felicitated in May 1940 in the 6<sup>th</sup> conference of Sanskrit scholars when DVG presided over the conference.

It was during three decades of service as teacher in Madras, he produced his literary works. He wrote on such diverse subjects such as religion, biography, drama, science and fiction. Among these, the publication of three great epics viz, Ramayana, Mahabharata and Bhagavatha immortalized him in the annals of Kannada literature. He died on 05.12.1940.

Among his works on the epics, Srimadramayana based on the Sanskrit text of maharishi Valmiki is in eight volumes, Mahabharata based on maharishi Vyasa's classic, the prose extended to 17



- Paura neethi(social science),
- Yuddhadha Anubhavagalu (Experiences of Wars),
- European War History,
- Ramakrishna Paramahamsa,
- Prabhodhika,
- Shathalankara Nidharshanam,
- Sanyasa Geethe
- Sookthimala.

His Kannada Vachana Ramayana also contains appropriate foot notes from Govindaraja, Bhodhayana Suthra and other philosophical works, Pandit Alasingaracharya was honoured as “ABHINAVABHASA” by Mr. Mariappa Bhat, the HOD of Department of Kannada, Madras University after reading the lucid translation of Sanskrit play Swappna Vasavadatta.

Chanda Koushika, the Sanskrit play remained partly translated by the noted scholar Karibasappa Shastri who was in the court of Maharaja of Mysore. The Maharaja of Mysore nominated Pandit Alasingaracharya to complete the translation of play.

Valmiki the immortal poet, has claimed that as long as the mountain exists and the rivers flow, so long would the Ramayana remain popular. Great men like Pandit Alasingaracharya with their dedicated and selfless effort, have made the great epics more popular and demonstrated that Valmiki was totally right in his claim.

M D Alasingaracharya translated several regional, national and international articles published in health and hygiene English magazines, edited by the Hon’ble Dr. U. Rama Rao, MBBS and U. Krishna Rao, MBBS in Kannada in the name Health Canarese- (**Arogya Chandrike**) for 12 years covering various health tips for all the seven stages of human life.

